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04/17/2013 Minutes

Minutes for the ABAC meeting of April 17, 2013

Board members attending were Jack Johnson, Christopher Tonkin, Stephan Miller, Ron Sender, Doug Greenfield, and Scott Smith. Phil Goff was absent. Also present were Joey Glushko, Sam Milton and Maggie Stanley.

*Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting. The minutes of the March meeting were approved with amendments.

Reports on projects in progress:

Mass. Ave. Corridor Project. Scott told us that he knows of no new developments on this project.

Clean Air and Mobility Program (CLAMP) Project. Scott reminded us that there will be a public hearing about this project next week. The design that will be presented is a compromise that includes bike lanes in both directions, a new signal and bike crossing at Swan Pl., a bike track through the Uncle Sam Park but no provision for a diagonal crossing at the intersection. This design also retains all the current parking spaces. This design was made possible by narrowing the travel lanes to a width of 10 feet. We decided that ABAC supports the current plan but would prefer removing some parking which would allow other, more preferable, design possibilities. We also discussed where the projected bike track through the park should be located.

Recreational Trails Grant (RTG) Program. We looked at the current design of the Bikeway map and brochure. Several improvements in the design were suggested. Joey reminded us about the upcoming preview of the project by the consultants, Toole Design, to take place in Lexington on May 5.

Bikeway usage guidelines. Doug suggested we need some emergency protocol in case there is a last minute special event to be held on the Bikeway. Joey told us that the Town Manager has the final say on all events so last minute requests should go to the Town Manager's Office. She would also like to see the guidelines and procedure finalized before the beginning of summer. Since Scott will be busy with Town Meeting, we decided to put this project on hold until June.

Spring Outreach Bike Safety Check. We decided that the date for this event will be June 8. Joey reminded us that this event must be sanctioned by the Selectmen. Joey will arrange to have ABAC put on the Selectmen's agenda in the near future.

Bike-ARLINGTON Tour. Christopher suggested that we start at the parking lot at the Medford Boat Club, cycle down the Mystic River Parkway, cut across to the Thompson School and pick up the Alewife Greenway at some point. Christopher will narrow down the route and arrange a practice run sometime before the end of April.

Spring Bikeway Cleanup. Christopher volunteered to be the ABAC contact in Arlington Heights and together with Chad Gibson, Stephan Miller and David White will run the Cleanup on April 27. Stephan told us that he has arranged for the DPW to pick up the refuse after the event.

Flashing beacon at the Mill St. Bikeway crossing. Scott told us that there have been some complaints about the new crossing beacon at the Mill St. Bikeway crossing. Scott showed us a draft of his article for the Advocate clarifying the correct etiquette for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians using the crossing. Joey suggested that he also should write something about the signal itself. Maggie asked if someone is thinking about a similar solution for Lake St. Scott answered that the TAC is considering solutions for alleviating the traffic jam in that area.

Bikeway maintenance. Jack mentioned that the line down the center of the path needs to be repainted and the root heaves in East Arlington need to be repaired. Scott informed us that the repairs are on the DPW agenda for this summer.

Eco-fest 2013. Joey gave us a summary of the events that occurred at the ABAC table at this year's ECO-fest. She also told us that we got about a dozen new addresses for the ABAC email list.

Other.

Sam suggested that we create a page for ABAC on Facebook. Maggie will look into it and report back next month.

Joey asked for volunteers to do bike counts in May.

Sam suggested that we need to do something to encourage commuters to ride their bicycles to public transportation or directly to work.

Christopher suggested this could best be accomplished in a fall time slot, perhaps at Town Day. He added that we could incorporate winter bicycling tips as well.

Jack reminded us about the MassBike dinners at Redbones on June 3 and the Westin Hotel on June 7.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 pm.

*Notes that a vote of the board was taken.

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller.